

**ABSTRACT**

A method for communicating information between a plurality of local area network sections having different transmission speeds includes three steps. One step includes receiving, within the physical layer protocol, a packet that is transmitted from a source terminal in a source network section having a source transmission speed to a destination terminal in a destination network section having a destination transmission speed, the destination transmission speed differing from the source transmission speed. Another step involves determining the transmission speed for the destination terminal. The method further includes the step of re-transmitting, within the physical layer protocol, the received packet to the destination network section at the destination transmission speed.